

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An injection-molded capsule container for delivering a water-destined ingredient selected from the group consisting of a fabric care composition, a surface care composition and
5 a dishwashing composition, wherein the container comprises a material other than a poly(vinyl alcohol) that will dissolve at an intended aqueous destination site.
2. The container according to claim 1 wherein the material that will dissolve comprises a cellulose ether, polyglycolide, gelatin, polylactide or a polylactide-polyglycolide.
3. The container according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a
10 detergent, biocide, deodorant or a water-treatment chemical.
4. The container according to claim 1 wherein the container comprises an elongate tubular package having at least one closed rounded end.
5. An injection-molded capsule container for delivering a water-destined ingredient selected from the group consisting of a fabric care composition, a dishwashing composition, a
15 water-softening composition, a laundry composition, a rinse aid composition, an antibacterial composition and a refill composition for a trigger-type spray, wherein the container comprises a material that will dissolve at an intended aqueous destination site.
6. The container according to claim 5 wherein the material that will dissolve comprises a poly(vinyl alcohol).
- 20 7. A capsule container comprising a wall having a thickness and at least two molded components having a surface, wherein the at least two components comprise at least one moldable material that is water soluble or water dispersible or wherein a substantial part of the surface of the at least two components is water soluble or water dispersible so as to leave at least one perforation in the wall when the capsular container is placed in contact with an
25 aqueous environment, and wherein the container comprises about one to about six molded compartments, and wherein the content of the at least one compartment is accessible to the aqueous environment when the capsular container is exposed to the aqueous environment, and wherein if the container comprises more than one compartment, the accessibility time of the more than one compartments is the same or different from the accessibility time of another

compartment, with the proviso that the container does not contain a fabric care, surface care or dishwashing composition.

8. The container according to claim 7 wherein the molded compartments comprise an injection molding material.

5 9. The container according to claim 7 wherein the molded components are wholly water soluble or water dispersible.

10. The container according to claim 7 wherein the at least one material is soluble in an aqueous environment at at least about 5°C.

10 11. The container according to claim 7 wherein the at least one material is soluble in an aqueous environment of about 35° to about 37°C.

12. The container according to claim 7 wherein the container comprises at least two compartments.

13. The container according to claim 12 wherein the accessibility time of the at least two compartments are different.

15 14. The container according to claim 13 wherein the difference of the accessibility times is about 1 minute to about 12 hours at about 5°C to about 95°C.

15. The container according to claim 7 wherein the at least two components comprise a body and at least one cap.

20 16. The container according to claim 7 wherein the moldable material comprises a water-soluble polymer.

17. The container according to claim 16 wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol or a cellulose derivative.

18. The container according to claim 17 where the water-soluble polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

25 19. The container according to claim 7 wherein each of the at least one compartments comprises at least one active ingredient in each compartment, and wherein if the container comprises more than one compartment, the ingredients are different.

20. The container according to claim 7 wherein the at least two components comprise at least one body and at least one cap, and wherein closing the container by putting the at least one cap on the at least one body separates the compartment from an adjacent compartment.
- 5 21. The container according to claim 20 wherein closing a compartment by putting the at least one cap on the at least one body separates the compartment from the next one.
22. The container according to claim 7 wherein the components are welded to form a single indivisible unit.
- 10 23. The container according to claim 22 wherein the welding is on a line around the container and wherein the line is situated on a planar cross-section of the container.
24. The container according to claim 22 wherein the welding is effected by laser welding.
25. The container according to claim 24 wherein at least one surface before welding is coated with a laser beam reflecting ingredient.
- 15 26. The container according to claim 24 wherein at least one component is molded with a laser beam reflecting ingredient contained within the component.
27. The container according to claim 7 wherein the accessibility time of the at least one compartment is due to a difference in thickness of the wall of the compartment, and wherein the difference in thickness creates a thinner area.
- 20 28. The container according to claim 27 wherein the thinner area comprises a water soluble or water dispersible coating covering a perforation in the wall of the component.
29. The container according to claim 7 wherein the container comprises at least two compartments and wherein the difference in accessibility times of the compartments is due to a difference in the nature of the polymers comprising the compartments.
- 25 30. The container according to claim 7 wherein at least one component has a conical shape.
31. The container according to claim 27 wherein the thinner area of the wall is disposed longitudinally according to the general elongated shape of the capsular container.

32. The container according to claim 7 further comprising at least one raised portion on an external surface of the container, and wherein the at least one raised portion comprises a short, small pimple like projection or a rib extending wholly or partially around or along the capsule or a marking allowing identification of the capsular container or the contents of the container.

33. The container according to claim 7 having a thick wall, further comprising a raised portion on an external surface of the container, wherein the raised portion comprises an incuse pattern design, forming an array of thin-walled panels such that in use the thin-walled panels quickly dissolve, leaving the capsule with a grid structure of holes.

34. The container according to claim 7 wherein the wall of the container comprises particles which are susceptible to accelerate the rate of dissolution of the capsular container.

35. The container according to claim 34 wherein the container is adapted for use in an environment where the particles comprise a material susceptible to react chemically with the environment, and wherein the reaction causes an effervescence.

36. The container according to claim 34 wherein the particle size is from about 1 to about 100 microns.

37. The container according to claim 34 wherein the material of the particle is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium or magnesium carbonate or bicarbonate; tartaric acid, citric acid, cinnamic acid and the salts thereof.

38. The container according to claim 7 wherein the container is adapted for a pharmaceutical or nutraceutical use or purpose.

39. The container according to claim 38, wherein the container is adapted for delivery of one or more pharmaceutically or nutraceutically active ingredients into a human or animal body.